

What is claimed is:

1. A holding material, for a catalytic converter comprising a catalyst carrier, a casing for receiving the catalyst carrier, and the holding material mounted on the catalyst carrier and interposed in a gap between the catalyst carrier and the casing, wherein the holding material is made of inorganic fibers, and

at least an area of exhaust-gas-inlet-side of the holding material is set to be smaller in basis weight than any other area of the holding material.

2. A holding material for a catalytic converter according to Claim 1, wherein when basis weight of a smaller basis weight area is set as 1, basis weight of the other area is not smaller than 1.15.

3. A holding material for a catalytic converter according to Claim 1, wherein in a smaller basis weight area, basis weight is smallest at an open end portion of the holding material and increases continuously to reach the other area.

4. A holding material for a catalytic converter according to Claim 1, wherein when average basis weight of a smaller basis weight area is set as 1, average basis weight of the other area is not smaller than 1.15.

5. A holding material for a catalytic converter according
440 to Claim 1, wherein a ratio, in axial length, of a smaller
basis weight area to the other area is in a range of from 1:9
to 9:1.